



News Release

IDAHO DEPARTMENT OF WATER RESOURCES

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IDWR DIRECTOR ELECTED CHAIRMAN OF WESTERN STATES WATER COUNCIL

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Karl J. Dreher, Director of the Idaho Department of Water Resources, has been elected Chairman of the 18-state Western States Water Council during the Council's meetings today (July 26) in Bismarck, North Dakota.

Dreher will serve a two-year term as the Council's chairman. He has served as vice chairman of the Council for the past two years. He was originally appointed to the Council in 1995 shortly after being selected as the Director of the Idaho Department of Water Resources by then Governor Phil Batt. Dreher was subsequently re-appointed as the IDWR Director by Idaho Governor Dirk Kempthorne in 1998.

"This is significant recognition of the state of Idaho's leadership in resolving contentious western water issues as well as a personal honor for Director Dreher. The Western States Water Council is widely recognized for its knowledge of national and western water issues, and now there is an Idahoan and member of my cabinet elected by his peers to lead this influential organization," Governor Kempthorne said of Dreher's election.

The Western States Water Council was created by the Western Governors in 1965 and works closely with the Western Governors Association on water policy issues of concern to the governors. Director Dreher currently heads the three-member Idaho delegation to the Council.

The objectives of the Council are to: (1) accomplish effective cooperation among western states in the conservation, development, and management of western water resources; (2) maintain vital state prerogatives, while identifying ways to accommodate legitimate federal interests; (3) provide a forum for the exchange of views, perspectives, and experiences among member states; and (4) provide analysis of federal and state water resource issues to the Western Governors and the federal government, as well as for the purpose of assisting member states in evaluating impacts of federal laws and programs and the effectiveness of state laws and policies.